

Some species of Parasitic Hymenoptera found with Ants.

By HORACE DONISTHORPE, F.Z.S., F.E.S., etc.

Mons. Ferrière has been good enough to name for me a certain number of Parasitic Hymenoptera, which I had found with ants and put on one side, as I was unable to get them identified here-to-fore.

As they are not mentioned in my book "*The Guests of British Ants*," it is well to place them on record now. I believe most of them are parasitic on Diptera and may have no, or at any rate no direct, connection with ants; but never-the-less they were all taken with ants, or bred out of ants nests:—

CHALCIDIDAE.—*Ecrizotes filicornis*, Th., bred out of an observation nest of *Formica rufa*, L., from Oxshott, 19.iv.04. This is a new genus and species to Britain; it belongs to the *Pireninae*.

Lamprotatus tarsalis, Walk., bred out of an observation nest of *Formica rufa*, L., from Weybridge, 31.iii.08.

Arthrotylus maculipennis, Walk., taken in a nest of *Acanthomyops* (*Chthonolasius*) *flavus*, F., at Whitsand Bay, Cornwall, 14.iv.09.

Micromelus pyrrhogaster, Walker, taken with the above.

Tetrastichus roesellae, Nees., taken in a nest of *Acanthomyops* (*Dendrolasius*) *fuliginosus*, Latr., at Cothill, 30.vi.09.

Pleurotropis epigonus, Walk., bred out of an observation nest of *Formica fusca*, L., from Porlock, 23.v.07.

Micromelus pyrrhogaster, Walk., bred out of the above nest, 30.v.07.

Microterys clavellatus, Dl., 3 specimens bred out of an observation nest of *Formica rufa*, L., from Nethy Bridge, 12.vi.13.

Halticoptera sp. ? bred out of the above nest, 14.vi.12.

Habrocytus sp. ?, taken in a nest of *F. fusca*, L., at Kingswear, 23.iv.08.

Aprostocetus sp. ?, bred out of *F. rufa* observation nest from Oxshott, 12.v.04.

CYNIPIDAE.—*Alloxyta perplexa*, Cam., taken in a nest of *F. fusca* var. *glebaria*, Nyl., in the New Forest, 22.vii.18.

ICHNEUMONIDAE.—*Gelis* (*Pezomachus*) *corruptor*, Först., taken with *A. (D.) fuliginosus* at Weybridge, 8.ix.14.

Gelis (*Pezomachus*) *instabilis*, Först., running in company with ♀ of *A. (D.) niger* in Windsor Forest, 3.vii.31.

On the "Illustrations of Varieties of British Lepidoptera," by S. L. Mosley (1878-1885?).

My attention was recently called to an article on this subject which appeared in your issue of November, 1931, and which I have since perused with much interest. Mr. Griffin has done well to tabulate for a generation nearly fifty years afterwards, the magnificent contents of this unique work. As he has said, the work is very rare, and so far as I know, nothing has ever been attempted on the same lines either before or since. I was two years old when my father began this work, consequently could not have had much personal interest in it at the time! In fact I had never been so fortunate as ever to see a copy

until a few months ago, when I purchased a complete set in parts from a second-hand bookseller—incidentally having to pay a very stiff figure for it.

Mr. Griffin's tabulation, valuable though it is, does not convey anything of the exquisite delicacy and beauty of the drawings. Although perhaps I ought not to wax eulogistic, owing to my personal relationship, S. L. Mosley was an artist, who has possibly not had an equal in his own particular line, and I venture to suggest that his earlier works show him to much better advantage than do his later ones, when he rather tended to mass production and consequently his sketches lost much of the individual delicacy which he put into every sketch before-time.

Simultaneously with his *Varieties of British Lepidoptera*, my father was issuing *Illustrations of European Butterflies*, which was upon an even more magnificent scale. Of this too, I had never seen anything but very occasional unfinished plates; I have now become possessed of a perfect complete and clean set, for which I had to pay dearly, but which I would not re-sell for ten times what I gave for it.

During the whole of his life, S. L. Mosley was the producer of voluminous literary and artistic works, and knowing him so well, as I ultimately was privileged to do as his son, I saw in him certain peculiar traits, which are manifest even in these early works, but which a casual observer might never detect. He always started off a new project with impetuous enthusiasm, which however failed to be sustained for any great period. It was not, however, that his interest abated, but rather because his fertile mind was conceiving other fields to explore and in his eagerness to be there he tended to neglect the unfinished task already in hand.

The fourteen parts which Mr. Griffin has so ably analysed, were not the only *Illustrations of Varieties* which my father produced, although probably it was his best, and if the Editor of the *Record* cares to have it, I shall be glad to contribute thereto an article dealing with such other works of that character as I have knowledge of.—CHARLES MOSLEY, M.B.O.U., The City Museum and Art Gallery, Wakefield. May 21st, 1932.

What is the meaning of a pupa ?

By NORMAN H. JOY, M.R.C.S., F.E.S., M.B.O.U.

I am writing another book now on quite different lines from my *Practical Hand-book of British Beetles*, and I want to refer to this subject. The average entomologist has never given it a thought, as he is a mere collector of Lepidoptera. There are some who realise there are other orders of insects, and there are even a few now who realise that an insect is a living thing, and not a mere specimen. This is referred to very well by Mr. W. Fassnidge in his Presidential Address to the Entomological Society of the South of England, 1931. In my coming book I shall go into the question "What is a species?" from what I think is quite a new light, which will be ignored by the average entomologist, because it is new!

One of the greatest strongholds of the truth of evolution is the study of Embryology. We profess to know now that the bird first came